**What is python?**

* A high level language, which is to say you don’t have to worry too much about the specifics of the computer system when writing your code, such as memory management.
* An interpreted language, so each line of your script is executed one at a time instead of being compiled all at once. It’ll stop if it finds an error.
* A general purpose language. Python is used for many different purposes, from software development, to web and game development, and is even used for building scientific applications.

It makes for a good starting language due to its relative simplicity and emphasis on code readability. It is also available on many operating systems, Windows, iOS and Linux.

**Brief history of python**

Development of the language began in December 1989 as a side-project by Dutch developer Guido Van Rossum . In 2000 python 2 came out followed by python 3 at the end of 2008. Python 2 remained popular for a few years after python 3 came out since a lot of libraries were written in python 2, but now that python 3 has had the time to mature it is now the recommended version to use.

**Using python**

You can run python scripts from <https://repl.it/languages/python3> which you may use as an alternative from installing python on your computer. I will write a separate guide on installing and running python 3 on windows computers.